

# *Sketch*

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## Fame Alley

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## Fame Alley

The bordello  
flickered in neon scents  
steaming of Calvin Klein perfumes  
and drenched dead mermaids.

Roaches  
crept up crotches  
seduced by the stewing  
flavours of deodorized asses;

Scurrying choruses  
of rats squealed hallelujah  
to fungoid remnants of  
chicken bones and baked yams

Somewhere  
in the blinding corridors  
a hi-fi throbbed with  
a wailing horn;  
  
the rhythm evoked a forgotten  
baptism in streams choked with the  
blessings of a passionate salvation.

The clientele  
sneaked in with thoughts  
of burning the pressures  
of another day.

But they would awake  
in the dismal dawn  
to stale yawns of the  
night's gossip and the  
limp nod of tired erections.

—Yuxuf Abana